

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02
SSM-05 SIG-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 EB-07 FEA-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /103 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MKBERRY:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MR. COLLUMS
NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
-----232350Z 013714 /64

O 232215Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
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USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 118806

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MAY 23, 1977

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR MAY 23,
1977:

Q. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE
STATEMENTS MADE OVER THE WEEKEND BY MR. BEGIN, PARTICULARLY
IN REFERENCE TO HIS APPARENT REJECTION OF THE IDEA OF A
PALESTINIAN HOMELAND ON THE WEST BANK?

A. NO, WE DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE STATEMENTS BY CROWN
PRINCE FAHD AND FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI THREATENING AN OIL
EMBARGO IF THE PRESIDENT DOES NOT COMPEL ISRAEL TO
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RETREAT TO THE 1967 LINES?

A. THE PRESIDENT YESTERDAY AGAIN REPEATED OUR COMMITMENT
TO HELP REACH A PEACE SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND
THIS REMAINS THE FOCUS OF OUR POLICY; AND WE ARE DETERMINED
TO CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO BRIDGE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN

THE PARTIES. AS YOU KNOW, PRINCE FAHD IS ARRIVING TODAY
FOR ANOTHER IN THE SERIES OF CONSULTATIONS THE PRESIDENT
IS HAVING WITH KEY MIDDLE EASTERN LEADERS. I AM NOT
GOING TO SPECULATE NOW ON WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IN HYPOTHETI-
CAL SITUATIONS. WE BELIEVE THAT QUIET DIPLOMACY OFFERS
THE BEST PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS.

Q. THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION HAS STATED CATEGORICALLY
SEVERAL TIMES, THROUGH PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY
KISSINGER, THAT THEY WOULD NOT TOLERATE ANOTHER OIL
EMBARGO; AND HERE YOU HAVE A THREAT OF AN OIL EMBARGO
AND YOU'RE NOT REACTING TO IT.

A. NO. MY REACTION IS WHAT I JUST READ, AND I THINK THAT'S WHAT MY REACTION WILL BE.

Q. DON'T YOU CARRY ON THE COMMITMENT OF THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION ON THAT PARTICULAR ISSUE?

A. ON THIS MATTER, ON A QUESTION THAT HAS BEEN RAISED TO ME, MY RESPONSE REMAINS WHAT I HAVE YOU: THAT WE'RE NOT GOING TO ENGAGE IN SPECULATION ABOUT HYPOTHETICAL SITUATIONS.

Q. REGARDLESS OF THIS THREAT OVER THE WEEKEND, WHAT IS THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION ON THE USE OF OIL AS A POLITICAL WEAPON?

A. AGAIN, IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH A USE, I DON'T HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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ANY COMMENT.

Q. I WAS JUST GOING TO ASK IF THE "QUIET DIPLOMACY" THAT YOU ALLUDED TO BEFORE WAS A STATE DEPARTMENT POSITION OR AN ADMINISTRATION POSITION.

A. I THINK IN THIS INSTANCE WE HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN THE USE OF DIPLOMACY THROUGH THE WHOLE AREA, AND THAT'S WHAT OUR CONSULTATIONS HAVE BEEN ABOUT. THIS REFLECTS THE ADMINISTRATION'S VIEW ON HOW WE OUGHT TO PROCEED HERE, WHICH IS TO TALK TO THE PARTIES IN THE AREA TO SEEK THEIR VIEWS AND TO SEE IN WHAT WAYS WE CAN ASSIST THE PARTIES THAT HAVE TO REACH THE AGREEMENT TO COME TO A NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT ON THE PROBLEMS OF THE AREA.

Q. IS QUIET DIPLOMACY AN ADMINISTRATION-SIDE POLICY OR STATE DEPARTMENT POLICY?

A. I THINK THAT THE QUESTION THAT YOU'RE ASKING ME HAS TO DO WITH THE ISSUE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND WE'RE PURSUING THE SAME POLICY THAT WE'VE BEEN PURSUING SINCE WE CAME IN ON JANUARY 20TH.

Q. MR. BEGIN HAS SPOKEN ABOUT THE WEST BANK BEING PART OF ISRAEL. THE QUESTION I HAVE REFERS TO THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH YESTERDAY WHERE HE MENTION ED THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO 242 AND 338. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONSIDER MR. BEGIN'S COMMENTS CONSISTENT WITH 242?

A. WE ARE NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON MR. BEGIN'S STATEMENTS. I THINK THE PRESIDENT'S REAFFIRMATION OF AMERICAN POLICY

IN THE AREA SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

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Message Attributes

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